

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01018 231820Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4245

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1018

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJECT: REINFORCED NAC MEETING

REF: STATE 34735

1. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION FEB. 22, I TOLD JOSEPH LUNS THAT US COULD ACCEPT MARCH 13 DATE FOR REINFORCED NAC. I DID NOT, REPEAT NOT, TELL LUNS THAT US AGREEMENT TO THAT DATE WAS CONTINGENT THAT MEETING OF US OFFICIALS WITH EC NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER MARCH 13.

2. AS I SEE IT, THE US HAS CONSIDERABLE CONTROL OVER BOTH SUBSTANCE AND DATES OF MEETINGS; AND IT SHOULD RETAIN AND EXERT THAT CONTROL OVER BOTH ASPECTS OF THE REINFORCED NAC AND THE US-EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS. THE US HAS NOW ACCEPTED THE MARCH 13 REINFORCED NAC; NOW WASHINGTON IS IN A POSITION TO ARRANGE ANY DATE FOR THE MEETING WITH THE NINE AROUND THE MARCH 13 DATE. THUS, THE TAIL WILL NOT WAG THE DOG.

3. ADDITIONALLY THERE IS NO WAY TO KNOW WHEN ANOTHER US MEETING WITH THE NINE WILL BE APPROPRIATE; THE LATTER COULD JUST KEEP STALLING. IN THAT SITUATION, THE US MIGHT FIND ITSELF IN THE POSITION OF BEING THE ONLY NATION FORCING THE DELAY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL TO HAVE A NAC REINFORCED WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS.

4. MOREOVER, AS LUNS, OTHER DELEGATIONS, AND I ARE AWARE, THE  
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PAGE 02 NATO 01018 231820Z

FRENCH HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT "LINKAGE" BETWEEN THE REINFORCED NAC AND US-EC NINE MEETINGS. IF WE TELL LUNS OF ALLIES THAT THE US IS MAKING THE NAC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING CONTINGENT UPON THE OTHER, WE WILL PLAY RIGHT INTO FRENCH HANDS,--AND DE ROSE WILL TAKE A HARD POSITION ON THAT POINT BECAUSE HIS INSTRUCTIONS

REQUIRE HIM TO DO SO. FURTHER, I SUGGEST THAT WE STOP GIVING FOREIGNERS EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR BRUSSELS THE IDEA EVEN IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN CONVENING THE NAC WITH POLITICAL DIRECTORS WHICH SECRETARY KISSINGER PROPOSED AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING LAST DECEMBER.

5. AFTER TALKING WITH LUNS I MET PRIVATELY WITH ANDRE DE STAERCKE. I TOLD HIM THAT US COULD ACCEPT THE MARCH 13 DATE. HE WAS VERY PLEASED I SAID I DID NOT LINK THE REINFORCED NAC WITH THE OTHER MEETING BECAUSE, IF YOU TAKE THE POSITION THAT YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING UNTIL YOU DO EVERYTHING, YOU END UP DOING NOTHING. HOWEVER, I WILL STATE IN THE NAC THAT THE US AGREE TO THE MARCH 13 DATE AND THAT, TO THE EXTENT IT CAN BE WORKED OUT, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS CONVENIENT FOR THOSE COMING FROM NORTH AMERICA AND FOR OTHERS WHO MUST TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES. I THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT I WOULD PERSONALLY APPRECIATE WHATEVER STEVIE DAVIGNON MIGHT DO TO SEE THAT THE MEETING OF THE NINE WITH THE US BE SCHEDULED CLOSE TO MARCH 13 TO SPARE OUR PEOPLE TWO LONG TRIPS IN A SINGLE WEEK. DE STAERCKE ASSURED ME THAT DAVIGNON WOULD DO HIS UTMOST TO MEET THIS REQUEST.  
RUMSFELD.

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